include substantial scaling down of cash reserve ratio (from 14 per cent of net demand and time liabilities in March 1996 to 11 per cent at present, it is proposed to be reduced further to 10 per cent by January, 1997), raising of export credit limit (from 10 per cent of net bank credit to 12 per cent by end March 1997) as also permitting commercial bank to provide foreign currency denominated loans. Banks have also been advised to reduce their prime lending rates (PLR) for all advances and to announce the maximum spread over PLR.

Proposal to Set up Zonal Benches of Supreme Court

1189. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some eminent legal luminaries have opined that Zonal Benches of the Supreme Court be set up; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Representations/suggestions have been received form time to time from different sections of society for establishing benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the Country. According to Articles 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard. No action is contemplated by the Central Government till such a proposal is received.

Tourist Potential of Excavated remains in Gujarat

1190. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excavated remains in Lothal, sun temple at Modhera and Rani Ka Vav at Patan in the State of Gujarat have the tourism potential but are facing the neglect of Central and State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the neglect of these places of tourism importance;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to properly develop these places by providing necessary infrastructure at these places to attract more tourists there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government however, the Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Govts. for specific projects based on their merits, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has identified "Refurbishment of Sun Temple at Modhera and Refurbishment of step wells at Modhera" for central financial assistance during 1996-97.

Air Safety Committee headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth

1191. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up another Air Safety Committee headed by Air Marshal J.K. Seth recently as